

21st August 1925]

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I do not know what the Government will say in the matter. But this has been a practice of some standing; even from days before the present Reforms, we used to place the answers half an hour before the President takes his seat and now it is done one hour before. As a matter of fact it is with the greatest difficulty that we obtain these answers. Sometimes we get them on the very morning of the day on which they have to be placed on the table. I happen to know for the answers relating to two or three days the Government have had to pay overtime. The Superintendent, Government Press, refused to print them without the sanction for overtime, and sanction was obtained yesterday and it is likely to be so for the remaining two days also. Printing on the previous day, I suppose, will mean that we should have to forego answers to several questions; I mean several questions would be delayed if they are to be given a day sooner. Anyhow, it is a matter to be considered.”

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ If a few questions are delayed, it would be very much more convenient, because the Government would not have to answer so many questions at a time. But I am sure we will be better informed on these questions if they are sent one day earlier.”

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ As you very rightly said, Sir, I may also say that the practice has been of some duration. 12-15 p.m. If I may be allowed to say so, Government will look into this matter and see whether it is feasible to have the questions printed and distributed earlier.”

* Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I cannot support the suggestion made by my hon. Friend here. Sir, the practice in the House of Commons is, as you are aware, that starred questions are orally answered, even questions which are circulated previously. Generally, oral answers are given by the Member or the Minister when the questions are put. If we are to adopt this suggestion, we will be instituting a practice contrary to that in the House of Commons.”

II

DATES OF THE NEXT SITTINGS OF THE COUNCIL

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I think, Sir, at one time, Members of this Honourable House were anxious to know when the next sittings of the Legislative Council would be held. I believe, Sir, information is at the disposal of the hon. the President.”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I thank the hon. Member. I propose to inform hon. Members when we shall meet on the next two occasions. As matters stand at present, and with reference to the engagements of all concerned, I propose to adjourn the session, when we adjourn next week, to October 28th, Wednesday; and in that month, October 30th and October 31st will be non-official days. A rule has recently been made by the Government of India, which will be communicated to hon. Members, that the allotment of non-official days cannot be changed from day to day without the sanction of the Local Government. And as hon. Members, especially the Leader of the Opposition, wanted to know beforehand what days would be allotted, I am saying this with the permission of His Excellency the Governor who has allotted these days, October 30th and 31st. The next meeting after that

[The President]

[21st August 1925]

we propose for December 17th; and in that month, 19th December, Saturday, and 21st December, Monday, will be non-official days. That is all so far as we can forecast at present."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Are the proposed dates of the December meeting unalterable? I would rather have the meeting earlier, because December is the month when generally people go out for a holiday, and if we begin to sit on the 17th, we may not be able to finish well in advance of the Christmas week."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May we rest content with the allotment for October and then see how things develop? "

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I ask, Sir, whether these days do not clash with the Dassara holidays? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have particularly taken care to see that they do not clash."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Sir, is it not possible to fix the ordinary days as well, i.e., approximately say how long the Council will be sitting in October? "

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I may say, Sir, that certainly there will be Government business for two days; but, if the Land Revenue Settlement Bill receives the sanction of the Governor-General, it may take a day longer."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" For the present, as matters stand, the Government days will be only three in October."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Two. They may be more."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" If the Andhra University Bill is ready after the Select Committee stage, it will be discussed in October."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I submit that it may not be possible to discuss it in October; possibly you are not aware, Sir, that some of the local boards and municipalities have their elections in that month? "

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I may say that so far as October days are concerned, those days were fixed because they had to be arranged with reference to the various programmes, including the tour programme of His Excellency."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" In view of the fact that the Malabar Tenancy Bill is a private Bill, I wish to bring to your notice that in its final stages, it will require four or five days. May I know whether you propose to treat the Malabar Tenancy Bill hereafter as a non-official work or an official work? If it is a non-official work, we shall have to bring it to the notice of His Excellency and see that more days are allotted for non-official work in the October sittings in order to finish the Malabar Tenancy Bill."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Under the rule, though as a matter of convenience and in order to regulate the business of hon. Members and to enable them to fix their other engagements, these days have been

21st August 1925] [Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

allotted, there is nothing to prevent His Excellency from allotting fresh days for the Malabar Tenancy Bill if it becomes fit for further discussion. Then we shall have more days."

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary laid on the table copies of the statement^a of resolutions passed in the Council during the last two sessions and action taken thereon by the Government.

With reference to the answer given to a supplementary question to question No. 225 at the meeting of the Council held on 2nd March 1925, the Secretary laid on the table a copy of G.O. No. 73,^b Judicial, dated 12th February 1925, on the Report of the Special Officer on the reorganization of the Armed Reserves in the Presidency.

IV

THE ANDHRA UNIVERSITY BILL.

The discussion on the Andhra University Bill was resumed.

* Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, it may perhaps at the very outset, look very strange that a person who does not possess any intimate knowledge of the conditions in Andhradesa should rise to speak a few words on this Bill. So far as the discussion has gone, two Tamilians have raised their voice of protest against this Bill. If it is permissible for some Tamilian Members of this House to speak against the Bill, such privilege may also be claimed by other Tamilians who are inclined to give their support to this Bill. I do not desire that any impression should exist, either here or elsewhere, that the Tamilian Members of this House are opposed to this Bill. It is with a view more to disabuse the House of that impression, to drive out any such erroneous impression that I feel myself called upon to rise and offer a few remarks on the features inherent in this Bill. In the course of the discussion, one or two hon. Members from the Ceded districts were up in revolt against this Bill, because they had a fear of being yoked to the Andhra University Bill. That argument of theirs seems to proceed upon the impression which the previous speakers and the hon. the Minister for Education left on their minds in regard to the location of the university centre. If I understood the speech of the Minister for Education aright, in view of certain importance that he attached to Vizagapatam, the impression left upon my mind and upon the minds of others as well was that he has in mind Vizagapatam; and the distance between Vizagapatam and Ceded districts which are much nearer to Madras, seems to have necessarily provoked a chorus of opposition from the Ceded districts which seem to have a partiality to Madras on account of its proximity. In view of the fact that the hon. the Minister for Education gave us an assurance yesterday that he has kept his mind perfectly open on the matter, I hope and trust that he will try to overcome this opposition and meet these difficulties by reviewing the situation and, if possible, by hitting upon a more central, more convenient and more inviting place. It seems to me that the opposition, so far as it has proceeded, was directed more against the location of the university than against its formation.

^a Printed as Appendix VI on pages 546-547 infra.

^b Printed separately.